

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic elastomer comprising a rubber (A) which is partially or all crosslinked, an isotactic polypropylene (B) having an isotactic pentad ratio of 0.8 or more, a syndiotactic polypropylene (C) having a syndiotactic pentad ratio of 0.6 or more and a softener (D), wherein the syndiotactic polypropylene (C) is contained in an amount of 0.5 to 10% by weight based on 100% by weight of the total amount of the crosslinked rubber (A), isotactic polypropylene (B), syndiotactic polypropylene (C) and softener (D),

wherein the ratio ((C)/(B)) by weight of the syndiotactic polypropylene (C) to the isotactic polypropylene (B) is greater than 0 and less than 1, and the thermoplastic elastomer having has a melt flow rate of 0.01 to 1000 g/10 min., wherein the melt flow rate is measured at 230°C under a load of 10 kg according to ASTM D1238.

2. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic elastomer according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of the rubber (A) which is partially or all crosslinked is 5 to 94% by weight, the amount of isotactic polypropylene (B) is 4.5 to 85% by weight, the amount of syndiotactic polypropylene (C) is 0.5 to 10% by weight and the amount of the softener (D) is 1.0 to 60% by weight provided that the total amount of (A), (B), (C) and (D) is 100% by weight.

3. (Original) A thermoplastic elastomer according to Claim 1, the elastomer being obtained by dynamically heat-treating a mixture containing a rubber component (A1), the isotactic polypropylene (B), the syndiotactic polypropylene (C) and the softener (D) in the presence of a crosslinking agent (E).

4. (Original) A thermoplastic elastomer according to Claim 1, the elastomer being obtained by dynamically heat-treating a mixture containing a rubber component (A1), a polypropylene and the softener (D) in the presence of a crosslinking agent, and then by further adding a polypropylene to the reaction mixture, which is then melt-kneaded, where the propylene represents the isotactic polypropylene (B) and/or the syndiotactic polypropylene (C).

5. (Original) A thermoplastic elastomer according to Claim 3 or 4, wherein the rubber component (A1) is an ethylene/ α -olefin/nonconjugated polyene copolymer rubber (a1) having a Mooney viscosity (ML_{1+4} (100°C)) ranging from 10 to 250 and/or an ethylene/ α -olefin copolymer rubber (a2) having a melt flow rate of 0.1 to 100 g/10 min., the melt flow rate being measured at 190°C under a load of 2.16 kg according to ASTM D1238, the isotactic polypropylene (B) has a melt flow rate ranging from 0.01 to 100 g/10 min., the melt flow rate being measured at 230°C under a load of 2.16 kg according to ASTM D1238 and the syndiotactic polypropylene (C) has a melt flow rate ranging from 0.01 to 100 g/10 min., the melt flow rate being measured at 230°C under a load of 2.16 kg according to ASTM D1238.

6. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic elastomer according to Claim 3, wherein the crosslinking agent (E) is an organic peroxide.

7. (Previously Presented) A molded article produced by extrusion-molding the thermoplastic elastomer as claimed in Claim 1.

8. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic elastomer composition comprising a rubber (A) which is partially or all crosslinked, an isotactic polypropylene (B) having an isotactic pentad ratio of 0.8 or more, a syndiotactic polypropylene (C) having an syndiotactic pentad ratio of 0.6 or more, a softener (D), and a crosslinking agent (E),

wherein the syndiotactic polypropylene (C) is contained in an amount of 0.5 to 10% by weight based on 100% by weight of the total amount of the elastomer composition and the ratio ((C)/(B)) by weight of the syndiotactic polypropylene (C) to the isotactic polypropylene (B) is greater than 0 and less than 1, the crosslinking agent (E) is present in an amount of 0.01 to 0.9% by weight based on 100% by weight of the total elastomer composition, the thermoplastic elastomer having a melt flow rate of 0.01 to 1000 g/10 min., wherein the melt flow rate is measured at 230°C under a load of 10 kg according to ASTM D1238.

9. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic elastomer composition according to Claim 8, wherein the amount of the rubber (A) which is partially or all crosslinked is 5 to 94% by weight, the amount of isotactic polypropylene (B) is 4.5 to 85% by weight, the amount of syndiotactic polypropylene (C) is 0.5 to 10% by weight and the amount of the softener (D) is 1.0 to 60% by weight provided that the total amount of (A), (B), (C), (D), and (E) is 100% by weight.

10. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic elastomer composition according to Claim 8, the elastomer being obtained by dynamically heat-treating a mixture containing a rubber component (A1), the isotactic polypropylene (B), the syndiotactic polypropylene (C) and the softener (D) in the presence of a crosslinking agent (E).

11. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic elastomer composition according to Claim 8, the elastomer being obtained by dynamically heat-treating a mixture containing a rubber component (A1), a polypropylene and the softener (D) in the presence of a crosslinking agent (E), and then by further adding a polypropylene to the reaction mixture, which is then melt-kneaded, where the propylene represents the isotactic polypropylene (B) and/or the syndiotactic polypropylene (C).

12. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic elastomer composition according to Claim 10 or 11, wherein the rubber component (A1) is an ethylene/ α -olefin/nonconjugated polyene copolymer rubber (a1) having a Mooney viscosity (ML_{1+4} (100°C)) ranging from 10 to 250 and/or an ethylene/ α -olefin copolymer rubber (a2) having a melt flow rate of 0.1 to 100 g/10 min., the melt flow rate being measured at 190°C under a load of 2.16 kg according to ASTM D1238, the isotactic polypropylene (B) has a melt flow rate ranging from 0.01 to 100 g/10 min., the melt flow rate being measured at 230°C under a load of 2.16 kg according to ASTM D1238 and the syndiotactic polypropylene (C) has a melt flow rate ranging from 0.01 to 100 g/10 min., the melt flow rate being measured at 230°C under a load of 2.16 kg according to ASTM D1238.

13. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic elastomer composition according to Claim 10, wherein the crosslinking agent (E) is an organic peroxide.

14. (Previously Presented) A molded article produced by extrusion-molding the thermoplastic elastomer composition as claimed in Claim 8.

15. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic elastomer composition according to Claim 8, which additionally comprises a crosslinking adjuvant in an amount of 0.01 to 0.9% by weight based on 100% by weight of the total amount of the elastomer composition.